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being damaged by the fumigation. To this end I am (by invitation) inspecting the flour mills of Lima and Callao and am accepting flour in single sacks (new and in good condition) provided the condition of the mill is satisfactory.

The mill which played such a prominent part in the advent of plague in Callao has been completely reconstructed, and is perhaps as nearly rat-proof as can be made. An interesting point that may be mentioned in connection with the construction of ground floors is that cement floors, though a great deal better than the ordinary, form a roof under which rats burrow easily unless there is a layer of ashes or gravel, say 6 inches to a foot in depth, underneath. Rats do not like such material, inasmuch as they can not form permanent paths of communication, the material caving in on their burrows as soon as made. A mixture of tar and ashes has also been used with good effect, and it is claimed that an ordinary plank floor laid directly on a layer of any of the materials mentioned is better than a cement floor laid on ordinary soil.

Some of the mills in Lima are still in rather bad condition and rats are abundant.

WEST INDIES.

Report from Barbados—Vessels inspected—Measles and influenza prevalent—Pure water supply.

Assistant Surgeon Ward reports, December 6, as follows:

During the week ended December 3, 1904, bills of health were issued to 6 steamships and 7 sailing vessels, with 334 crew, 45 steerage and 18 cabin passengers. Of this number I inspected 6 steamships, 3 sailing vessels, 275 crew, 45 steerage and 18 cabin passengers, of whom 2 of the crew, 2 steerage and 7 cabin passengers were taken on at this port. A person suffering from a loathsome disease, wishing a steerage passage, was recommended for rejection. There were 2 cabin passengers in transit for Trinidad, West Indies.

Measles and influenza are prevailing more or less throughout the island, but owing to the pure water from springs supplied by the Government waterworks to outlying country districts by laid pipes enteric fever, dysentery, and other bowel complaints, though present, are neither numerous nor severe.

The general health of Barbados is good; no quarantinable diseases have been reported.

Foreign and insular statistical reports of countries and cities—Yearly and monthly.

AFRICA—Sierra Leone.—Two weeks ended November 18, 1904. Estimated population, 50,000. Total number of deaths, 28. No contagious diseases reported.

AUSTRALIA—New South Wales—New Castle.—Month of October, 1904. Estimated population, 50,220. Total number of deaths, 45, including enteric fever 1, and 3 from tuberculosis.